

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Satoshi HASHIMOTO et al. Group Art Unit : 2484
Appl. No. : 10/596,107 Examiner : DANG, H.
Filed : May 31, 2006 Confirmation No. : 2090
For : REPRODUCTION DEVICE

STATEMENT OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended by Examiner Dang toward Applicants' representative, Chen Gu, during the telephone interview on March 23, 2012.

During the Interview, Applicants' representative and the examiner discussed the claim amendments and arguments submitted in the Response filed with a RCE on March 15, 2012. Specifically, Applicants' representative discussed claimed features of the present embodiment of the disclosed invention that are distinguishable from the cited references, JUNG, ANGIULO, UHLER, and KIKUCHI. The Examiner agreed that the claim amendments would overcome the pending rejections in the Office Action issued on September 15, 2011. No other agreement is reached.

While Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's Statement of Interview issued on April 5, 2012, Applicants respectfully maintain that the amendment was made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and with respect to the amended claimed features argued as deficient in the prior art, should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the

territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection was made. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in the amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully Submitted,
Satoshi HASHIMOTO et al.



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April 11, 2012
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